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ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
SCHOOL COMMITTEE

OF THE
CITY OF CHARLESTOWN,

DECEMBER, 1854.



CHARLESTOWN :
PRINTED BY WILLIAM W. WHEILDON,
1855.

ANNUAL REPORT

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

OF THE

CITY OF CHARLESTON.

DECEMBER, 1854



WILSON
1855

SCHOOL REPORT.



IN compliance with the requisitions of law, the School Committee respectfully submit the following REPORT :

The educational department of the City of Charlestown consisted, on the 31st of October last, of the following, viz :—

A School Committee of thirteen members, four elected by the voters of each Ward, and the Mayor, who is *ex officio*, a member, and also Chairman.

1 High School,	with 4 teachers and 118 scholars.
8 Grammar Schools, “ 30 “	1567 “
1 Intermediate “ “ 1 “	58 “
28 Primary “ “ 28 “	2048 “
<hr/> 38 Schools,	<hr/> 63 teachers, 3791 scholars.

PRIMARY SCHOOLS

The following tables contain the statistics of the Primary Schools at the close of the winter and summer terms :—

No. of Schools.	Primary Schools.	Wint. Term, ending April 1854										NAMES OF	
		Whole No. for the Term.	Boys.	Girls.	No. at close of the Term.	Boys.	Girls.	Average attendance.	Present at Examination	No. of visits of Comtee.			
											Teachers Names.	Sub-Committees.	
1	Mary J. Brown,	108	54	54	74	36	38	46	61	3	F C. Sewall.		
2	M. B. Skilton,	70	38	32	65	36	29	50	58	2	Hiram P. Remick.		
3	Hannah H. Sampson,	96	50	46	78	42	36	51	55	6	" "		
4	Charlotte M. Moore,	96	56	40	82	45	37	64	60	12	I. W. Blanchard.		
5	Charlotte Poole,	76	45	31	65	38	27	51	61	7	" "		
6	Mary L. Everett,	85	49	36	85	39	46	55	57	5	Geo. W. Bartlett.		
7	Susan L. Sawyer,	68	32	36	64	28	36	45	57	4	William Flint.		
8	Julia M. Ranstead,	65	33	32	58	27	31	50	57	12	Geo. W. Bartlett.		
9	Martha S. Lothrop,	56	29	27	50	26	24	39	49	13	" "		
10	Frances E. Smith,	94	54	40	78	44	34	51	70	3	Wm. I. Budington.		
11	Joanna S. Putnam,	86	45	41	72	38	34	58	66	5	" "		
12	Elizabeth A. Lord,	82	45	37	76	47	29	51	68	4	O. C. Everett.		
13	Cath. W. Trowbridge,	77	41	36	61	34	27	44	50	8	Nathan A. Tufts.		
14	Sarah E. Smith,	96	50	46	78	40	38	53	67	6	" "		
15	Jane E. Rugg,	115	51	64	90	42	48	70	81	7	O. C. Everett.		
16	Abby E. Hinckley,	94	56	38	75	45	30	49	59	3	James Fogg.		
17	E. H. Rodenburgh,	74	37	37	66	34	32	52	54	8	George Cutler.		
18	Ellenora Butts,	105	44	61	76	31	45	48	68	8	" "		
19	Louisa W. Huntress,	76	36	40	68	32	36	48	53	3	" "		
20	Elizabeth C. Hunting,	80	36	44	70	33	37	29	55	4	William Flint.		
21	Mary F. Wyman,	88	45	43	70	34	36	54	61	14	Reuben Curtis.		
22	Frances M. Lane,	79	40	39	72	35	37	49	59	10	" "		
23	Mary A. Osgood,	65	29	36	56	24	32	39	34	3	F. C. Sewall.		
24	Susan T. Crosswell,	72	44	28	51	28	23	38	34	3	James Fogg.		
25	H. M. Sanborn,	102	55	47	86	53	33	52	60	6	Hiram Hutchins.		
26	Helen G. Turner,	35	18	17	24	12	12	25	24	4	F. C. Sewall.		
27	Louisa A. Pratt,	143	72	71	84	44	40	50	60	8	Reuben Curtis.		
28	Mary M. Decoster,	66	36	32	63	36	27	40	45	8	Hiram Hutchins.		
29	Mary J. Underwood.	66	33	33	62	32	30	33	43	6	Hiram P. Remick.		
		2417	1253	1164	1999	1035	964	1379	1626	185			

No. of Towns.	Primary Schools.	Teachers Names.	Location.	Sum. Term, ending Oct. 1854.									
				Whole Number for the Term.	Boys.	Girls.	Number at close of the Term.	Boys.	Girls.	Average Attendance.	Present at Examination.	Visits of Com.	
1	Mary J. Brown,	Near B. H. S. House,	124	60	64	88	46	42	60	77	3		
2	M. B. Skilton,	Mead street,	78	41	37	73	35	38	51	63	5		
3	Hannah H. Sampson,	Ward Room No. 3,	109	54	55	79	40	39	51	64	10		
4	Ellen Hichborn,	War. School-House,	112	60	52	87	44	43	48	85	7		
5	Charlotte Poole,	Elm street,	82	51	31	66	41	25	55	54	11		
6	Frances Hichborn,	Elm street,	99	53	46	76	38	38	44	60	8		
7	Susan L. Sawyer,	Boylston Chapel,	82	32	50	69	28	41	51	64	5		
8	Julia M. Ranstead,	Cross street,	76	33	43	55	27	28	47	47	7		
9	Martha S. Lothrop,	" "	59	32	27	54	31	23	43	47	14		
10	Frances E. Smith,	Common street,	115	56	59	90	48	42	59	72	3		
11	Joanna S. Putnam	" "	88	45	43	75	39	36	59	57	2		
12	Pauline B. Neale,	Bow street,	86	47	39	62	37	25	49	57	8		
13	Cath. W. Trowbridge,	" "	79	42	37	68	38	30	50	59	11		
14	Sarah E. Smith,	" "	94	54	40	80	42	38	58	69	9		
15	Jane E. Rugg,	" "	115	55	60	98	44	54	73	84	5		
16	A. E. Hinckley,	Common street,	98	55	43	62	32	30	46	46	2		
17	E. H. Rodenburgh,	B. H. street, at Point.	83	44	39	70	37	33	55	56	2		
18	Ellenora Butts,	" "	100	49	51	76	38	38	53	60	5		
19	Louisa W. Huntress,	Moulton street,	97	44	53	73	36	37	56	60	2		
20	Elizabeth C. Hunting,	Soley street,	90	34	56	80	40	40	42	64	3		
21	Mary F. Wyman,	Bartlett street,	104	54	50	80	39	41	62	64	18		
22	Frances M. Lane,	" "	90	43	47	80	35	45	54	69	11		
23	Helen G. Turner,	Haverhill street,	58	28	30	52	27	25	38	44	5		
24	Susan T. Crosswell,	Common street,	67	37	30	59	34	25	40	36	1		
25	H. M. Sanborn,	Ward Room, No. 2,	95	60	35	79	49	30	60	67	5		
26	Louisa A. Pratt,	Bunker-Hill,	130	60	70	98	38	60	66	72	6		
27	Mary M. Decoster,	Ward Room No. 2,	65	31	34	60	31	29	40	47	6		
28	Mary J. Underwood,	Ward Room No. 3.	68	34	34	59	28	31	39	42	6		
				2543	1288	1255	2048	1042	1006	1449	1686	181	

During the present year one of the Primary Schools (No. 26) has been discontinued ; this school was connected with the Alms-house, and was composed almost exclusively of the children of foreigners, who were removed to the State Alms-house, at Tewksbury, in May last.

The statistics of the 28 schools remaining, indicate an average number in each school of 73 scholars, an average attendance at the examination in October of 60 scholars, an average attendance during the summer term of 52 scholars, and the whole number connected with them about the same as last year. Many of these schools are very large, while others are of moderate size ; there is great need of an entirely new districting of the city ; this work has been repeatedly attempted, but was found so much of a task in connection with the more imperative labors of the Committee, that it was abandoned.

The semi-annual examinations have been duly made and the reports indicate the different degrees of excellence to which the several schools have attained ; the circumstances connected with different schools are so varied as to render it difficult and perhaps unjust to judge of the faithfulness of a teacher by the proficiency of the pupils. In many of the schools there is scarcely any change of scholars during a term, thus enabling the teacher to exhibit the perfected fruit of her labors at its close ; others are situated in sections of the city where the population is ever changing, and the worn and anxious teacher instead of concentrating her energies upon a single school, absolutely has passing through her hands during a term, pupils enough to form two entire schools. The Primary Schools generally are in a favorable condition, and are doing the pioneer work of education among our children. The worth of these schools is generally appreciated by our citizens, as is forcibly illustrated by the fact, that there are only five or six private schools for young children, containing in all only about one hundred scholars.

The following table contains statistics of the Intermediate, Grammar and High Schools :

SCHOOL RETURNS, AT THE SEMI-ANNUAL EXAMINATIONS.

High, Grammar, and Intermediate Schools.

Term ending April, 1854.																			Term ending Oct. 1854.																		
Whole Number of Scholars for the Term.																			Whole number of Scholars for the Term.																		
Boys.																			Boys.																		
Girls.																			Girls.																		
Number at its close.																			Number at its close.																		
Boys.																			Boys.																		
Girls.																			Girls.																		
Average attendance.																			Average attendance.																		
Present at Examination.																			Present at Examination.																		
Number of visits of School Committee.																			Number of visits of School Committee.																		
Whole Number of Scholars for the Term.																			Whole number of Scholars for the Term.																		
Boys.																			Boys.																		
Girls.																			Girls.																		
Number at its close.																			Number at its close.																		
Boys.																			Boys.																		
Girls.																			Girls.																		
Average attendance.																			Average attendance.																		
Present at Examination.																			Present at Examination.																		
Number of visits of School Committee.																			Number of visits of School Committee.																		

INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL.

MISS ANN NOWELL, - - - *Teacher.*

Committee—O. C. EVERETT,
HIRAM HUTCHINS,
REUBEN CURTIS.

This school, since its establishment until about the first of May last, was under the care of Miss Pauline B. Neale, but her health and strength were not sufficient for so arduous a task, and she has been transferred to Primary School No. 12, in place of Miss E. A. Lord, resigned. This school has since that time been taught by Miss Ann Nowell. The Committee in their Nov. report state, that the examination gave them great satisfaction ; the order of the school was complete, and evinced the high reputation of the teacher as a kind and efficient disciplinarian. The Committee add, "Such is the success of this school among that class of children gathered in, that if another teacher equally competent could be found, we should recommend the establishment of another Intermediate School, for the benefit of a large class that might be collected in the upper parts of the city, where there are many in Primary Schools, and more in the streets, who would be benefitted, if brought under the influence of such a teacher."

BUNKER-HILL SCHOOLS.

No. 1.

McLAURIN F. COOK, Principal.
ANNIE M. LUND, 1st Assistant
CAROLINE PHIPPS, 2nd "

No. 2.

WM. H. SANDERS, Principal.
MARTHA A. BIGELOW, 1st Asst.
PHOEBE A. KNIGHTS, 2nd "

Sub-Committee—ISAAC W. BLANCHARD,
FREEMAN C. SEWALL,
HIRAM P. REMICK.

In regard to these schools, the Sub-Committee in their report of May last state, that "Messrs. Sanders and Cook have proved themselves worthy successors to those who as former Principals of these schools have done so much to build up their fair fame and reputation, and they have no hesitation in saying that their posi-

tion at the present time is one of much promise." In November the Sub-Committee say, "in the present condition and prospects of these schools they find much that is hopeful and encouraging ; it is believed that the teachers are ever on the alert to take advantage of every measure for their prosperity and advancement, and it is their earnest wish and desire to carry them to the highest point of attainment."

WARREN SCHOOLS.

No. 1.	No. 2.
GEORGE SWAN, Principal.	JOSEPH T. SWAN, Principal.
MARY A. OSGOOD, 1st Asst.	CHARLOTTE M. MOORE, 1st Asst.
MARGARET VEAZIE, 2nd "	MARY M. MAYHEW, 2nd "
MARIA BROWN, 3rd "	ANN J. CHANDLER, 3rd "

Sub-Committee—GEORGE W. BARTLETT,
OLIVER C. EVERETT,
REUBEN CURTIS.

These are undoubtedly model schools ; the Sub-Committee in May last state, "that all the different departments of these schools are under faithful and competent teachers, good order and discipline prevail throughout ; their present flourishing condition may be justly attributed to the thorough and practical manner of teaching, for which these schools have gained so much distinction."

The November report says, "the appearance of these schools during the last examination warrants the belief that the teachers have performed the arduous duties which devolved on them, with fidelity and success.—The various classes gave undoubted evidence of close application to study, and excellent training." The present crowded state of these schools renders it necessary that further accommodations should be provided as soon as practicable.

WINTHROP SCHOOLS.

No. 1.	No. 2.
B. F. S. GRIFFIN, Principal.	SAMUELS. WILLSON, Principal.
SOPHIA W. PAGE, 1st Assistant.	JULIA A. BRIDGES, 1st Asst.
R. S. RICHARDSON, 2nd "	MARY ALDEN, 2nd "
ANNA DELANO, 3rd "	E. A. RICHARDSON, 3rd "

Sub-Committee—HIRAM HUTCHINS,
WM. I. BUDINGTON,
GEORGE CUTLER.

These schools were reported by the Sub-Committee, in May last, as in a flourishing condition and occupying a position in advance of that previously attained. In November the Committee say, "that sufficient time was spent in the recent examinations of these schools to enable them to judge somewhat accurately of their present condition, and the progress of the pupils since the last examination; the questions were not confined to the text books, but were so shaped as to draw out and develope the minds of the pupils; the examinations of all the divisions were eminently satisfactory." There is also great complaint of want of proper accommodations in these schools.

HARVARD SCHOOLS.

No. 1.	No. 2.
CORNELIUS S. CARTEE, Prin.	JOSEPH B. MORSE, Principal.
ANN E. WESTON, 1st Assistant.	ELIZABETH SWORDS, 1st Asst.
SARAH S. STOCKMAN, 2nd "	CAROLINE CROZIER, 2nd "
SARAH E. ARCHER, 3rd "	H. J. KNIGHTS, 3rd "

Sub-Committee—JAMES FOGG,
WILLIAM FLINT,
NATHAN A. TUFTS.

MAY REPORT. The Sub-Committee on these schools are gratified in being able to report favorably upon their present condition. The oldest in the city and among the first founded in the State, they have well sustained their long established reputation and are now deemed in no respect behind any, either in or out of the city.—At the same time, in common with all others we have observed, they have some faults: too little time and attention, we believe, are given to train the youthful

mind to think, to reason, and to judge for itself ; too much in storing it with words and facts, &c. To remedy the evil we would recommend that more attention be given to the studies of Grammar and Arithmetic. The study of Geography and History, important as are a general knowledge and comprehension of these branches, may be carried too far, may become too minute and occupy time which might be much more profitably employed, &c. We have been led into these thoughts, partly by the deficiency in mathematical skill evinced in the examination of these schools, but especially by the more manifest deficiency in all the schools as exhibited in the results of the examination of candidates for the High School.

NOVEMBER REPORT. The 1st, 2nd, and 4th divisions of Harvard School, No. 1, owing to its very crowded state, and also to a change of two of its teachers during the past season, "did not fully maintain the high position possessed at a former examination." "The 3d Division is in a prosperous condition. Miss Stockman maintains good discipline and proves herself an efficient and successful teacher."

"This school should be relieved of its superabundant numbers. Dr. Cartee is making every effort for the highest advancement of the school, and could he be relieved of a portion of his pupils, the good effects would be seen in the more rapid progress of the scholars, particularly in those studies requiring the personal instruction of the Master."

HARVARD SCHOOL, No. 2. The examination in most of the divisions was highly satisfactory, showing indefatigable efforts on the part of the teachers and a considerable effort on the part of the scholars, which the Committee think must result in thorough scholarship in the several branches taught.

HIGH SCHOOL.

A. M. GAY, Principal,	Mrs P. G. BATES, Assistant,
C. E. STETSON, Sub-Master.	Miss H. M. SMITH, 2d Assistant.

Sub-Committee—OLIVER C. EVERETT,
WM. I. BUDINGTON,
WILLIAM FLINT,
ISAAC W. BLANCHARD.

The Sub-Committee in May last, stated “that the excellent order and high character of the school has been maintained, and secured the warmest approbation, not only of the Committee at the examination, but of the large number of friends and visitors at the exhibition.

“It is to be regretted, that so few of those who entered together, have been allowed to remain and regularly graduate from the institution. We cannot but think that it is a great mistake on the part of many parents, to remove their children before they have secured all the advantages which a school of such high order and reputation really affords.”

On Nov. 1st, the Committee report that “the examination continued three days, the exercises gave very good satisfaction, clearly manifesting that the scholars generally were well acquainted with what they had studied. We may confidently say that the instruction was never more thorough, or the attainments of the pupils greater. The whole appearance of the school indicated a deep interest on the part of the teachers and their scholars.

“Public exhibitions of Declamation and Reading have been lately introduced, once in five or six weeks.—These, it was thought, might be highly advantageous to the scholars, by giving them more confidence, and exciting them to greater effort in these exercises; while the parents and friends would have an object to visit the school, to see its means and opportunities, to be made acquainted with its teachers, and to witness the improvement of those in whom they feel so deep an interest. It is hoped that these occasions will be more generally improved, and thus increased interest will be

kept alive in this institution, which may be regarded as one of the most valuable in our community. May it long be preserved, and by its happy influence on its members may it induce other communities to open to their daughters as well as their sons the advantages of an extended system of public instruction."

GENERAL REMARKS.

There is no department of our municipal affairs which requires more constant care and attention than that of the education of our children and youth; while there are new developments from year to year in the world of science and of art, it is hardly to be supposed that no further improvement is to be made in the means and appliances for training the human mind. The system of education generally, which is in operation here at the present time, has been sanctioned by those among us of large experience and observation; and improvements have been introduced from time to time, but the main features of the plan have been retained. The question has often presented itself to those who have been particularly connected with the management of our schools—By what means can our excellent system of public instruction be made more efficacious to the moral and intellectual improvement of all the children of our city?

When it is realized that there are more than four thousand children in the city between the ages of four and sixteen years—that there are 38 Public Schools to be looked after and provided with teachers, fuel, &c.—that there are 63 teachers to be examined and consulted, and twice at least in each year all these schools are to be examined—and that all this work is to be done by thirteen men who have business of their own besides, it must be evident that the supervisory power is not commensurate to the magnitude of the work.

Our schools need to be visited (not merely called upon,) much oftener; comparisons to be instituted between them, each teacher's system of instruction observed, its excellencies approved, its objectionable features condemned, and thus an intimate acquaintance with each school would be formed, alike beneficial to teachers and scholars. It has been the opinion of many persons in whose judgment the community has often placed confidence, that the best condition of our schools could not be realized without the employment of an intelligent, educated, practical man, whose whole time should be spent in visiting the schools and carrying out the details of a general plan adopted by the School Committee.

It is not proposed by this agency to relieve the School Committee of the responsibility of a thorough annual examination of the schools, or of their general supervision, but by exemption from the minuter details of duties now performed, to give more time for a general and comparative examination of them.

It is to be feared that the moral and religious education of the young, in the community at large, has been much neglected of late, or that the temptations to vice have been greatly multiplied. The large proportion of juvenile criminals in our punitive institutions fully justifies this remark; out of 485 convicts in the State Prison in this city, 150 are not over 20 years of age! while the Reform School, at Westboro', for boys, is constantly filled to its utmost capacity.

The subject of truancy and vagrancy has not yet received that attention from the municipal corporations of our Commonwealth which its importance demands.—Laws fully sufficient to meet the emergencies of the case have been enacted, and it now remains for the cities and towns to give life and activity to those laws.

By a census taken by the authority of the School Committee, on the first of May last, it was found that there were in this city 3,785 children between the ages of 5 and 15 years. It also appears by the returns from the several Public Schools, and from information ob-

tained from the several Private Schools, that there were in all the schools in this city, on the 30th of April last, 3,400 children between the ages of 5 and 15 years. By deducting the number of children in the schools from the whole number found, there appears to be 385 children between the ages of 5 and 15 years not connected with any school. Many of these are undoubtedly old enough to be earning something for themselves or their parents and are properly employed; but undoubtedly a large proportion of them are wandering about the city idling away their time, and many of them committing petty larcenies from day to day. Here is the point to interpose municipal authority, and thereby save many of these children from lives of crime and shame, and from deaths of ignominy.

Under the provisions of an act passed May 3, 1850, entitled "An Act concerning Truant Children and Absentees from School," the City Council passed an Ordinance, elected a magistrate, appointed suitable officers to carry the provisions of the law into effect, and selected the Alms-house as a place of instruction and reformation; but all these arrangements were entirely useless because the Alms-house was nearly filled with State paupers, and no proper separate accommodations could be made without the erection of another building; the few boys, therefore, who were sentenced under the law, immediately ran away. But there is now abundant room at the Alms-house for an establishment such as is contemplated by the law, and only a small amount of money will be necessary to make the building safe and comfortable. This improvement is urgently demanded, and would probably do more to clear our streets and wharves of truants and vagrants than any amount of mere moral suasion, as they would prefer going to school rather than to the House of Reformation.

There is an urgent call from the Harvard, Winthrop and Warren Schools, for additional accommodations, there being now two hundred scholars in these schools not provided with proper seats. The subject received

some attention from the City Council the early part of the present municipal year, but the appropriations for schools not being sufficient, the improvement of the Winthrop School-house was postponed to another season.

We have thus attempted by implication, to answer the question proposed at the commencement of these remarks, and we firmly believe, that if additional supervisory power be ordained by the City Council, and the provisions of the Truant Act vigorously carried out, and the various religious societies fully realize their obligations to furnish Sabbath School instruction to all the children of our city, their moral and intellectual improvement would be permanently promoted.

By order of the Committee.

JAMES ADAMS, Chairman.

Charlestown, Dec., 1854,



